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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/814,478	03/31/2004	Mario Stigler	0275M-911/CO	7889
27572	7590	08/30/2006	EXAMINER	
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C. P.O. BOX 828 BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303			WUJCIAK, ALFRED J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3632	

DATE MAILED: 08/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/814,478	STIGLER, MARIO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Alfred Joseph Wujciak III	3632	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 June 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-14,16 and 17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 4-14 and 16-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 March 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

This is the final Office Action for the serial number 10/814,478, RETAINING CLIP WITH OFFSET LATCHING FINGERS, filed on 3/31/04.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 12-14 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 12 recites the limitation "portions" in line 13. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claims 13-14 and 16-17 are rejected as depending on rejected claim 12.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2, 4, 6-8 and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japan Patent # 317,946 to Tomoyoshi in view of US Patent # 4,253,629 to Wilmes.

Tomoyoshi teaches a retaining clip (figure 1, page 6) having a base part (2) with receivers (7) and pair of partitions (upright part of base part (2)). The partition comprises a front side and a rear side having at least one first latching finger (8) at the front side and at least one second latching finger (8) at the rear side of the partition. The width of each latching finger is smaller than the width of the partition. The first latching finger is arranged offset relative to the second latching finger (figure 1). The partition is elbowed (a wall located underneath latching finger and adjacent to curve part of element 7) between the offset latching fingers. The partition has an opening in the form a slot (figure 2, b, page 5). The clip comprises outer walls (located on both end of clip and adjacent to element 9) having at least one latching finger (8). The outer walls are reinforced by reinforcing structures (9-10).

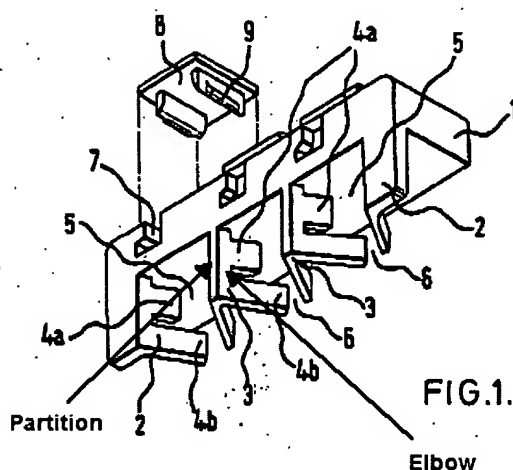
Tomoyoshi teaches the first latching finger is arranged laterally offset relative to the second latching finger but fails to teach the distance between the first finger and second finger is 5 to 20% of the width of the partition. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified distance between first latching finger and second latching finger to 5 to 20% of width of partition to prevent the first latching finger from interfering the second latching finger when an object is secured in the receiver.

In regard to claim 6, Tomoyoshi teaches the latching finger but fails to teach the ratio of latching finger width is between 1:4 and 1:2 or 2:5. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the ratio of width for the latching finger to between 1:4 and 1:2 or 2:5 to prevent the first latching finger from interfering the second latching finger when an object is secured in the receiver.

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Tomoyoshi teaches the partitions and latching fingers but fails to teach the partitions are elbowed between the latching fingers. Wilmes teaches the partition is elbowed between the offset latching fingers (3 and 4a). It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have added elbow to Tomoyoshi's partitions and latching fingers as taught by Wilmes to provide support for the both fingers to remain in an upright configuration when an object is inserted in the receiver which will cause the fingers to move in different direction from each other.

See drawing of figure 1 from Wilmes's invention for clarification:



Claims 5 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomoyoshi in view of Wilmes and in further view of US Patent # 5,947,426 to Kraus.

In regards to claim 5, Tomoyoshi teaches the partition but fails to teach both sides of the partition having two or more vertically offset latching fingers. Kraus teaches the partition having

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two vertically offset latching fingers (26-27). It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have added additional vertically offset latching fingers to Tomoyoshi's partition to provide additional security for retaining an object within the clip.

In regards to claim 9, Tomoyoshi teaches the retaining clip but fails to teach the retaining clip is made of elastic plastic material. Kraus teaches the retaining clip (1) manufactured by plastic material (col. 2, line 32). It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Tomoyoshi material to plastic material as taught by Kraus to provide flexibility in the retaining clip for convenience in removing an object from the clip without breaking it.

Claims 12, 14 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomoyoshi in view of US Patent # 5,954,300 to Sturies et al.

Tomoyoshi teaches a retaining clip (figure 1, page 6) having a base part (2) with receivers (7) and pair of partitions (upright part of base part (2)). The partition comprises a front side and a rear side having at least one first latching finger (8) at the front side and at least one second latching finger (8) at the rear side of the partition. The width of each latching finger is smaller than the width of the partition. The first latching finger is arranged offset relative to the second latching finger (figure 1). The partition is elbowed (a wall located underneath latching finger and adjacent to curve part of element 7) between the offset latching fingers. The partition has an opening in the form a slot (figure 2, b, page 5). The clip comprises outer walls (located on both

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end of clip and adjacent to element 9) having at least one latching finger (8). The outer walls having at least one latching finger (9). The partition being formed of first and second offset portions.

Tomoyoshi teaches the first latching finger is arranged laterally offset relative to the second latching finger but fails to teach the distance between the first finger and second finger is 5 to 20% of the width of the partition. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified distance between first latching finger and second latching finger to 5 to 20% of width of partition to prevent the first latching finger from interfering the second latching finger when an object is secured in the receiver.

Tomoyoshi teaches the partition but fails to teach the both sides of the partition having two or more vertically offset latching fingers are disposed respectively. Sturies et al. teaches the partition having two or more vertically offset latching fingers (18). It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have added additional latching fingers to Tomoyoshi's partition as taught by Sturies et al. to provide additional support for securing an object within the base.

In regard to claim 16, Tomoyoshi teaches the latching finger but fails to teach the ratio of latching finger width is between 1:4 and 1:2 or 2:5. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the ratio of width for

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the latching finger to between 1:4 and 1:2 or 2:5 to prevent the first latching finger from interfering the second latching finger when an object is secured in the receiver.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomoyoshi in view of Sturies et al. and in further view of Wilmes.

Tomoyoshi teaches the partitions and latching fingers but fails to teach the partitions are elbowed between the latching fingers. Wilmes teaches the partition is elbowed between the offset latching fingers (3 and 4a). It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have added elbow to Tomoyoshi's partitions and latching fingers as taught by Wilmes to provide support for the both fingers to remain in an upright configuration when an object is inserted in the receiver which will cause the fingers to move in different direction from each other.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 6/26/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant disagrees Tomoyoshi teaches the first latching finger is offset to the second latching finger because they are in parallel to each other. The examiner disagrees with the applicant because Merriam-Webster Dictionary (10 edition and can be found online www.m-w.com) states that the offset is "an abrupt bend in an object by which one part is turned aside out of line", the downwardly angle part (inverted J-shaped) of Tomoyoshi's second latching finger is "bend and out of line" of the opposed downwardly angle part (inverted J-

shaped) first latching finger's line. The downwardly angle part of first latching finger and downwardly angle part of second latching fingers do not align in the same line.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alfred Joseph Wujciak III whose telephone number is (571) 272-6827. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl Friedman can be reached on (571) 272-6815. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Alfred Joseph Wujciak III

Examiner

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. J. Wujciak III', with a stylized, overlapping flourish at the end.

8/27/07